

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 12/6/12

Present: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Sue Stamps, Ellen Callaway, Eric Helmuth, Alyssa Sandoval, Janice Pare, DPW Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan, Secretary Pete Howard

INTRODUCTIONS: Juli welcomed Alyssa & Janice and briefly reviewed what the ARC does. She urged us to stick to the agenda. Members agreed to continue to delegate approval of the minutes for posting to the co-chairs. If changes are needed, the posted version can be revised. Juli reviewed the ARC charter which is to encourage ways to save the Town money by recycling. This is mostly equivalent to diverting material from the solid waste trash stream.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR REPORT: Charlotte walked us through her printed report (Ref1). During the first 4 months of the fiscal year the solid waste tonnage, when compared to the same month a year ago, has decreased by an average of 15+%. She suggested choosing a baseline year for comparison of "trash per household" which is what other communities use. Gordon provided an update of the rolling yearly trash total (Ref 2). It shows a trend that implies a 15+% decrease this fiscal year. He pointed out that this display has been used by the ARC for a number of years and is consistent with the Town fiscal year budget. Pete noted that the State's Solid Waste Master Plan sets a goal of a 30% reduction in solid waste between 2010 & 2020.

MONTHLY TONNAGE TRACKING: Covered above. Discussion of the best criteria was postponed to next month.

COMMUNITY COLLECTION DAY (11/17/12) REVIEW: ARC considers successful. BoH will not collect medicines next year since police offer this service day and night. We need to make this clear in the promotional material. We need to cover what happens for an hour or so after the drop off ends. If used sneaker collection is offered again, Charlotte wants someone to take the sneakers to Boston.

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN LETTER: Pete reported that the letter was expanded (Ref 3) as suggested last month with contributions by Gordon, Juli, Charlotte & Sylvia Brodie of Toxic Action Center. The BoS office has put it on their letterhead. The Chair, Kevin Greeley, signed it. The DPW Dept Head and Town Manager will probably request some modification before signing. Juli will ask the Town Manager if the MMA might facilitate interesting other communities to write similar letters.

MANDATORY BUSINESS RECYCLING: Sue reported on her research. The DEP website lists 27 communities that regulate business recycling. She provided copies of some relevant bylaws and regulations. Arlington's bylaws do not explicitly apply to businesses. She reported that DEP has detailed waste ban regulations. Charlotte noted that these regulations are not enforced. Sue had discussed this matter w/ Carolyn Dann who suggested working with the BoH to require trash haulers to offer recycling. Sue will follow up on this. Janice offered to help.

GOALS & PROJECTS (blue sky): Not discussed because of lack of time. Gordon gave his list: Advocate promotion articles (Paper, Water, Reusable bags); Food composting (Bootstrap will collect at \$8/mo/hh), Stratton PTA is taking discarded library books to Got Books, Update clothes, books, paper collection bins/dumpster map; approach JRM on recycling furniture & mattresses, advertise available recycling collection frames for use during non-profit functions.

FUTURE MEETINGS - First Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the Town Hall Annex unless otherwise announced.

Ref 1 Recycling Coordinator Report 12/7/12

Ref 2 Rolling Trash Total

Ref 3 Solid Waste Master Plan Letter

Recycling Coordinator Report, Dec. 7, 2012

2012	Solid Waste	% change	Recycling	% change	Yard Waste*
Jul.	958.61	84	405.66	131	233.44
Aug.	1,185.39	87	418.14	110	236.25
Sept.	1,022.44	78	410.92	102	222.19
Oct.	1,071.74	89	448.75	102	390.94
Nov.					1,513.00

* We dispose of about 3000 tons of yard waste per year

New Recycling and Trash Program: Where are we?

- Recycling and yard waste pickup became weekly on July 1
- Mandatory recycling and trash limit enforcement began on Sept. 1
- Warning stickers (limits and recycling) and Non-Compliance stickers

Schools: Three elementary schools and the high school are recycling in the cafeteria. The three additional elementary schools have shown interest in starting sometime this school year. The middle school has staff and administrators who are interested in addressing the issue.

Upcoming Events

MSW: Yard waste collection has ended for the season as of Friday Dec. 7. CRT curbside collection is also finished for the winter. Both will resume in April.

EcoFest: EcoFootprints: Arlington People, Places, Spaces will be held on March 23, 10am-2pm at Town Hall. Rain barrels and compost bins will be sold that day. Free compost will be provided as usual.

Bottom line: I propose that ARC pick a fiscal year to use as a baseline for comparison. From that baseline we can project a 50% reduction goal as a "trash per household" number. That would be the new goal. Per household trash is the current comparable that communities use to measure progress in MSW diversion.

Ref 2

Month-by-Month

2010	Jul	1,224
	Aug	1,250
	Sep	1,273
	Oct	1,192
	Nov	1,276
	Dec	1,233
2011	Jan	1,085
	Feb	960
	Mar	1,234
	Apr	1,170
	May	1,245
	Jun	1,395

Yr-to-Yr

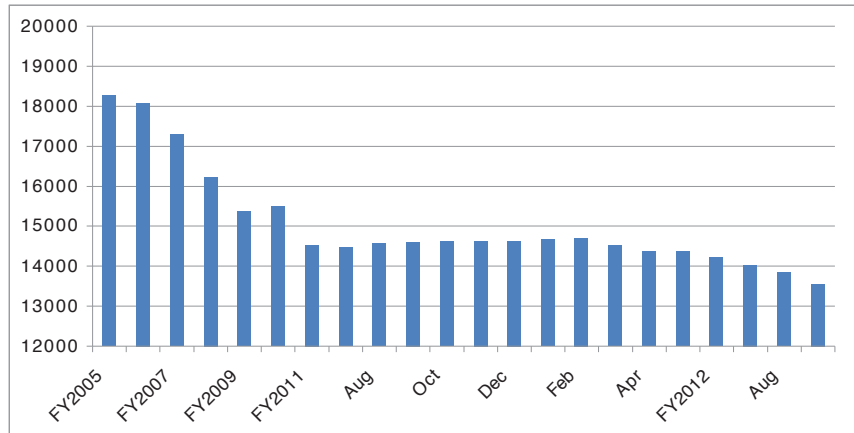
	Jul	1,142	(82.75)
	Aug	1,369	119.81 (Irene)
	Sep	1,312	39.17
	Oct	1,205	12.69
	Nov	1,279	3.02
	Dec	1,236	3.30
2012	Jan	1,122	37.50
	Feb	997	37.37
	Mar	1,040	(194.73)
	Apr	1,022	(148.80)
	May	1,260	14.38
	Jun	1,230	(164.49)
1078	Jul	958	(183.73)
	Aug	1185	(184.38)
	Sep	1022	(290.20)
	Oct	1072	(133.09) (197.85)

Running 12-Month Total

Previous 5yr Avg.	18930
FY2004	18721
FY2005	18263
FY2006	18082
FY2007	17289
FY2008	16231
FY2009	15359
FY2010	15493
FY2011	14537

Jul	14,455
Aug	14,575
Sep	14,614
Oct	14,627
Nov	14,630
Dec	14,633
Jan	14,671
Feb	14,708
Mar	14,513
Apr	14,364
May	14,379
FY2012	14,214
Jul	14,031
Aug	13,846
Sep	13,556
Oct	13,423

FY Totals			
Previous 5yr Avg.	18930	0	0
FY2004	18721	209	15675
FY2005	18263	667	50025
FY2006	18082	848	63600
FY2007	17289	1641	123075
FY2008	16231	2699	202425
FY2009	15359	3571	267825
FY2010	15493	3437	257775 (Flood)
FY2011	14537	4393	329475 (Irene)
FY2012	14214	4716	353700
FY2013 (est)	11500	4,849.09	363682
		\$	2,027,257
			\$75/ton metric



Town Seal

November XX, 2012

Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Governor Patrick and Secretary Sullivan,

As a Green Community, Arlington is constantly striving to enhance our ability to operate in a sustainable manner.

For example, we have made and continue to make great strides forward in reducing our energy consumption through implementing building (LEED) and energy conservation strategies (LED lights, Solar installations) that serve to reduce our carbon footprint.

Equally important is our ability to reduce our solid waste footprint. In this regard Arlington is considered to be a leader as we continue to implement creative strategies to reduce our solid waste footprint. In particular we anticipate that by the end of FY13, that over a period of 10 years that we will have reduced our solid waste footprint by an amazing 40%!

Critical to our ability to continue to make advances in reducing our solid waste footprint, is clear policy directives from the executive branch and MA-DEP. As you know the MA-DEP released a draft copy of the Commonwealth's 2010-2020 Solid Waste Master Plan on July 1, 2010. This document set forth a long range goal of zero waste and an interim 2020 goal of a 30% reduction in solid waste statewide. The plan also details a variety of specific efforts that the MA-DEP and communities can undertake to reach these goals. After issuing the draft, MA-DEP held hearings across the state and took public comments through October 2010. Unfortunately the plan has yet to be finalized and released.

We write to request that the 2020 Solid Waste Master Plan be finalized, released and implemented so that we can use this important policy directive to guide our efforts to implement responsible and sustainable solid waste initiatives consistent with MA-DEP policy at the local level.

Massachusetts needs to have a clear and forward-looking policy in this area and it needs it now. We would appreciate you giving this your highest level of attention and support.

Sincerely,

Chair, Arlington Board of Selectmen

Director, Arlington Department of Public Works

Co-chair, Arlington Recycling Committee

Co-chair, Arlington Recycling Committee

Chair, Sustainable Arlington

cc:

Lt Governor Timothy Murray

Senator Ken Donnelly

Representative Sean Garballey

Representative Dave Rogers